A [754 cont.]
340 for guests and, in winter, for the livestock. The hearth lies in
[354] the middle; over it hangs the kettle and sometimes a chimney
A tapering sharply at the top. Next to it stands a long, wide
352 bench, and against one wall a plank-bed made of boards, on
which are the beds and a chest. In one corner are kept the whet-
A stone, mortar stone, baskets, troughs, utensils for preparing
412 millet and maize, milk bucket, cups and spoons of wood and
415 horn, gourd containers, etc., and harnesses, saddles, and weapons
499 hang on the walls.
353

A Another type (khkwatsu) corresponds in purpose to certain
342 pile-huts on east Serbian and east Macedonian farms: they are the
sleeping huts for young married couples. They stand in the yard
near the main house, are round and plaited of hazel switches,
and the walls lean inward slightly. The roof is conical and
bound at the top with willow twigs, and the whole hut is covered
with reeds, ferns, dried weeds, and the like.

A [755] In the yard, which is surrounded by a plashed
351 hedge, there are, in addition, a summer kitchen of wickerwork,
343 plaited granaries on piles (cf. Figs. 246, 247 [in untranslated por-
tion]) for storing corncobs, a wine house with the wine press,
A barrels, baskets for the vintage, and the like. The latter are
285 round, pointed at the bottom, about 60 centimeters high and 15
245 centimeters wide; a large hook is tied on at the top so that when
the grapes are being picked it can be hung on the branches of the
tall grapevines, like our fruit basket.

C The Cherkess farmsteads likewise lie hidden in groups
361 in [Fig. 447 appears here] copses of oak, beech, elm [Ulmen],
C elm [Elmen], ash, pear, and plum trees. The dwelling is
349 built of mud bricks or wickerwork smeared with mud; the span-
roof is covered with straw that is held fast by poles, and it often
juts out in front one to one and a quarter meters as in the Balkan
and Crimean Tatar huts. The stable usually takes up one side of
the house, living space the other; a door on the long side leads
C to each of them. The interior furnishings are like those of the
352 Abkhaz house; the hearth, however, is found here at an out-
354 side wall, and the wickerwork chimney hanging over it is pear-
shaped and sticks out one and a half to two meters above the
roof. In the yard there are also a larger winter stable for sheep
[See top of this Page--Qualyst]

[758 cont.]

Silversmiths and blacksmiths are almost the only artisans; the former occupied themselves earlier with the ornamentation of weapons in particular; the latter, of whom there are two or three in every village, make dagger blades, sickles, bits for horses, horseshoes, and the like. Among the Abkhaz their profession is particularly honored and esteemed (see p. 25 , cf. Africa).

In earlier times trade was based exclusively on barter. Before the incursion of the Russians (end of the eighteenth century), the Cherkess traded salt, among other things, to the Osset, bringing it on large, two-

Fig. 450. Cherkess pistol with flintlock, bone pommel, and silver fittings (1/4 natural size) (Museum für Völkerkunde, Hamburg).

wheeled carts, drawn by six to eight oxen, from the salt-lakes along the Caspian Sea between Terek and Kuma. As products of their industry they sold principally wax, honey, skins, cloth, capes, and the like, as well as slaves. Linen material in pieces the size of a shirt served as a measure of value for all wares.

At that time the men, when not engaged in war, devoted themselves by preference to hunting and raiding. In order not to be understood by other people, and also to confuse the game, two kinds of secret language were used: the words in the one (šakobže) are completely different from the Cherkess language; in the other (farsipse) a ri or fe is inserted after every syllable.